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compliment to Edward Livingston, who plays no mean part in the stirring events of which Louisiana was then the theatre.

What the author gives us concerning the battle of New Orleans is made up of extracts from other writers, most of whom are familiar to the general reader. The author of "Jackson and New Orleans" supplies a description of Jackson's entry into the city to take command of the army. Nolte is prolific in supplying the gossip, giving us here and there an opinion of his own, which is not worth much. Our welcome guest, "The Subaltern," furnishes a graphic and exceedingly interesting account of the British fleet, from the time it left Negil Bay, until it anchored off the entrance to Lake Borgne. Then we have, from the same authority, in whom Mr. Parton places his trust, an account of the blunderings and sufferings of the British army after it had landed. No one can read this account without being satisfied that the British army before New Orleans was sacrificed by the almost unaccountable blunderings of its generals. The expedition set out without the slightest knowledge of the natural obstacles to be encountered, and in the firm belief that taking New Orleans would be a trifling affair. The British army had brave men enough in its ranks; but they were powerless against the evident want of capacity in their own generals, so hesitating and undecided in all their movements. But it was not alone want of capacity in the British General (Keane) that led to such fatal results. He overestimated his own power, and underrated that of the enemy. The tardy movements of the British army gave Jackson an opportunity to concentrate his forces, to effectually take advantage of its errors, and to so strengthen his position as to defy the enemy's advance. The British army, mortified at the apathy of its commander, became dispirited, and lost that moral courage and cheerfulness so essential to success in war. Nor is it surprising that that army, when led into action by its commander-in-chief, Packenham, should have faltered when it found itself face to face with an intrenched army of equal numbers, most of whom were sharpshooters, making every fire tell with deadly effect. General Jackson had an army of heroes, officered by men they had unbounded confidence in. The British army was made up of good soldiers, who had lost confidence in their officers. Perhaps we ought to have made an exception for the Forty-fourth, and the West India regiment of blacks. The former, under Col. Mullens, showed a singular unwillingness to perform the duty assigned. The latter was worse than useless. But the British army was defeated, its commander-in-chief killed, and New Orleans saved. Of course Jackson was made a hero, his every act magnified, and American generals who had shown themselves better soldiers, were lost sight of in that adulation which the victor always receives as his reward. It is no disparagement to General Jackson to say that he was fond of praise, and enjoyed the ovations given in honor of him with that earnestness peculiar to the Hibernian. Mr. Parton does not pass judgment on Jackson as a general, preferring to spread out the facts of what he did, and leave the public to form its own. The battle of New Orleans, fought after peace had been declared, ended our war with Great Britain, and regained for us some of the prestige we had lost by defeat in Washington and elsewhere.

Peace being established, New Orleans was relieved of the vexatious of martial law, and General Jackson was no longer supreme authority. The citizens of New Orleans were not all satisfied with the general's arbitrary sway of power, and began to show their feelings in various ways. It was at this time that the affair of the Mobile mutineers took place, and which

was afterward used with so much effect against Jackson by his political enemies. We refer to the execution of the six volunteers, for what was called mutiny at Mobile. These men had served their country well, and the acts of insubordination, of which they stood charged, were nothing more than the result of mistake with regard to their term of service. They firmly believed that they had served out the term of their enlistment, and were illegally held. There were other extenuating circumstances which, had Jackson acted from judgment instead of impulse and passion, would have gone far to mitigate the unnecessarily severe sentence. The verdict of every right-minded man is and always will be that these six brave men, volunteers who had served their country well, were heartlessly murdered. Allowance should have been made for the fact that they were volunteers; that the indiscretions committed by them were the result of a mistake; that there was nothing in the exigencies of the time demanding so bloody a sacrifice. General Jackson had them hanged for what they did, regardless of the circumstances. These arbitrary and despotic acts have left a stain on the character of Jackson, which, although posterity may judge him ever so generously, no amount of special pleading can wipe out. The putting to death of Ambrister and Arbuthnot, and the means taken to degrade the Spanish governor of Florida, were acts so despotic and cruel that one is surprised to find that even the popularity of General Jackson could have outlived the odium which attaches to them.

The present volume carries us down to 1823, when Jackson's friends are preparing to bring him out as a candidate for the White House.

NARRATIVE OF THE EARL OF ELGIN'S MISSION TO CHINA AND JAPAN.
By Laurence Oliphant. Harper & Brothers, Publishers.

Such of our readers as are familiar with Mr. Oliphant's works will not need to be told that this, his last, is one of the most interesting and instructive works of the day. Now that so much attention is being attracted to China and Japan, especially the latter, and so much anxiety felt by the American public to know more of the peculiar customs of these people, the value of such a book cannot be too highly appreciated. Mr. Oliphant's style is free, flowing and agreeable. Like a pleasant companion, he moves about quickly, takes his reader by the arm, makes him see just as he sees (and there are few things he does not see), and interests him so deeply that he is almost unconsciously compelled to accompany him to the end of his journey. He loves to be always on the move—always engaged in some bustling scene—always describing either the country or the manners and customs of the people he is amongst. And this he does in so graphic a style, and with such a play of delicate humor that one feels that there is no such thing as getting too much of so rare a traveller. The cause of the Indian and China war; the policy of Great Britain in the East; the internal governments of India and China; the incidents of the recent wars; the peculiarities of the peoples; the commercial resources and prospective social and political changes that must take place as we open up communication with them, and bring them to a sense of their proper position in the family of nations, are described and argued with an impartial pen. Of the case of the "Arrow," the pretext which England was so glad to get, and seized upon as a proper cause of war against China, Mr. Oliphant has not much to say. He was attached to the embassy for settling the complications existing between the two nations, and of course could not condemn as wrong acts his chief was bound to assert were right.

By far the most interesting portion of Mr. Oliphant's book is that which refers to Japan. His descriptions of the country and the peculiar manners and customs of the people, their extraordinary civilization, and their strange form of government, read like a romance, the object of the author being to fascinate and delude his readers with a tale of some fairy land. Now that the Japanese Embassy is approaching our shores, this book arrives in good time, and will supply the demand which our anxiety to know more of these curious people must create.

LETTERS FROM SWITZERLAND. By Samuel Irenæus Prime, D.D. Sheldon & Company, N. Y.

We cannot conscientiously say that Mr. Prime is a keen observer or an interesting writer. Mr. Prime is always before us. He is busy telling us of himself, what hotel he dined at, who was with him, what the landlord said to him, and how Mr. Prime intends to proceed. Out of such good materials as Mr. Prime had spread before him, it is remarkable that he should have produced so excessively dull and commonplace a book. We wish he had given us more of Switzerland and less of himself.

TYLNEY HALL. By Thomas Hood. J. E. Tilton & Company, Boston.

We have just received a copy of this novel, elegantly printed and bound. The name of the author is a sufficient guaranty that its contents will well repay a perusal. We shall speak of it as it deserves in our next number. It is a proof of good taste in the publishers to again bring this novel, so refreshing of wit and humor, before the public.

WALTER ASHWOOD; A LOVE STORY. By Paul Sivgvolk. Rudd & Carleton, New York.

About as weak an attempt at novel-writing as we have chanced upon for a long time. The hero is clever at heart-breaking, but in attempting to make his flirtations interesting to the readers the writer has made a lamentable failure. The book is got up in good style, and we confess to a feeling of sympathy at seeing such good paper and printing wasted on what does not rise above the dignity of literary trash.

THE LIFE OF JEREMY TAYLOR. By George L. Duyckinck. Church Book Society, New York.

Mr. Duyckinck has performed his task with great good taste and judgment. A clear, reliable and comprehensive life of this good man was much needed, and Mr. Duyckinck's work will be hailed with pleasure at the fireside of every family where the name of Jeremy Taylor is familiar. It should be a welcome guest at the fireside of every truly religious family. The publishers deserve credit for the neatness of style in which the work is produced.

A KNOWLEDGE OF LIVING THINGS, with the Laws of their Existence. By A. N. Bell. Baillière Brothers, New York.

Some idea of living objects, more comprehensive than of old, is an indispensable requirement now-a-days. Existences seem to be scarcely heeded as mere facts; we must know something of their origin, growth and place in this universe, in order to keep pace not only with the minds of school-children, but with the new order of literature which the best thinkers of the day are gradually forming. This little work treats of the phenomena of life; in other words, of the physiology of organic and inorganic bodies, from an atom of matter up to the complex organism of man. It is a lucid digest of established facts con-

cerning the mineral, vegetable and animal worlds, its style and plan being well adapted to the grasp of an ordinarily well-informed person. The illustrations are numerous and well executed, and are drawn from the best authorities, and the typography is in harmony with these, and in keeping with the usual good taste of the enterprising publishers.

THE HISTORY OF SOUTH CAROLINA. By William Gilmore Simms. Redfield.

The name of the author is ample guaranty for the excellence of this work. The historical picture presented in it is clearly drawn and well composed. The dramatic skill which Mr. Simms possesses, gives the narrative more interest than we commonly find in such productions.

THE SECRET OUT; or, One Thousand Tricks with Cards. Dick & Fitzgerald.

This is an interesting volume for such persons as have a taste for the mysteries of cards and regard them as a source of innocent amusement. The book is not designed for professional use, but for the fireside; and our friends in the country will find it an amusing companion of a winter evening. It discovers the manner in which more than one thousand tricks are performed, each trick being accompanied with a drawing. Armed with such a book, every man can be his own juggler.

HOME PASTIMES; or, Tableaux Vivants. J. E. Tilton & Co., Boston.

This book is intended to supply a want often felt by people who cater for other people's amusement. It suggests a species of entertainment, and sets forth the *modus operandi*; its title, "Tableaux Vivants," explains its purpose. Numerous subjects for tableaux are given in this work, with directions how to arrange figures and costumes effectively, and how to produce colored lights, mimic thunder, flesh stains, scenery, all the paraphernalia of theatrical display. The descriptions of the subjects are well written, and the book is printed in a superior manner.

THE BULWER NOVELS.—Messrs. J. B. Lippincott & Co., of Philadelphia, are publishing Bulwer's novels in 12mo. form, exquisitely bound and printed. An edition of this kind was much wanted, and we are glad to see the enterprise in the hands of so responsible a house.

MASON BROTHERS have in press and will shortly publish a book of travels in Arabia, entitled—"The Wonders of the Desert," by Dr. Couret, the celebrated French traveller, and translated by Mr. C. D. Shanley, well known as a contributor to the "Atlantic Monthly."

Several of our keen-eyed publishers are on the watch for Presidential candidates whose lives they can turn a penny by publishing. This Presidential literature is a great nuisance. He who reads such books expecting to get the truth will be sadly disappointed.

THE LONDON CRITIC says the American publishers are now in favor of an International Copyright. This is a grave mistake. American publishers have no idea of atoning for past sins, by any repentant unselfish thought of this kind.

Notices of "Napoleon III. and Italy," by Mrs. Browning; "Lyrics and Idyls," by E. C. Stedman, and of "Lectures on the English Language," by Hon. G. P. Marsh, will appear in the number for June.